



# DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Division

### Davis County Health Department

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## Davis County Health Update

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### Measles cases reported in Utah

In the last week, four measles cases have been confirmed in Salt Lake County residents and additional suspect cases are being investigated. Local and state health department staff are investigating these cases and attempting to identify susceptible contacts so they can be vaccinated or quarantined. Measles cases are also being reported in Minnesota and Texas.

Initial measles symptoms resemble a cold with a high fever (103° - 105°), runny nose, and red, watery eyes and usually appear 10 to 12 days after exposure. A rash begins a few days later which typically starts around the ears and hairline and spreads to the face, trunk, and arms. Koplik spots (blue-white spots) are often present in the mucosa of the mouth 1-2 days before or after the rash appears. Measles is highly contagious and individuals are considered infectious 4 days before through 4 days after rash onset.

**Because measles has been eliminated from U.S., a measles case is considered a public health emergency warranting an immediate public health response. Any suspect or confirmed case of measles should be reported immediately to the Davis County Health Department Disease Reporting Hotline at (801) 525-5220. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation to report a suspect case.**

Patients presenting with rash illnesses should be immediately placed in a room away from other patients and respiratory precautions should be implemented to protect employees. Suspect measles cases should be told to stay home until at least four days after rash onset.

Laboratory testing is essential to confirm the diagnosis and includes IgG and IgM serology, preferably drawn at least 3 days after rash onset. More information on measles testing is available at: <http://health.utah.gov/epi/diseases/measles/plan/MeaslesPlan08242010.pdf>.

Anyone who has never received a measles vaccine, or has not had measles, is at risk of becoming infected. The initial dose of the measles vaccine is recommended for children at 12 months of age and the second dose at 4-6 years of age. Two doses of the measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR) are required for entry into Utah schools. Measles vaccine is also recommended for other groups, such as healthcare workers, international travelers, people born after 1957, and anyone without a previous history of vaccination or disease.

We encourage health care providers to take this opportunity to evaluate the measles vaccine status of their employees. All health care workers born after 1957 who have never been infected with measles should be able to document two doses of MMR vaccine. Health care workers without documentation of immunity may need to be quarantined for as long as 21 days if they are exposed to a case of measles. Please also encourage your patients (especially those who are planning to travel abroad) to check their vaccine status and be vaccinated if they have not received 2 doses of MMR.

MMR vaccine is available at the Davis County Health Department's clinics in Bountiful and Clearfield. For more information about the vaccine and clinic hours please call (801) 525-5020.